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**Apostolic Christianity.** Notes and Inferences Mainly Based on St. Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians. By H. HENSLEY HENSON, B.D. London: Methuen & Co., 1898. Pp. xx + 343. 6s.

A rambling book of miscellaneous matter and various treatment. History, interpretation, apologetics, and preaching are all here. Great confusion exists in the arrangement of the material; the volume is confessedly a compilation rather than a creation. And the author himself hardly knows how to describe the product. At one point (p. xvi) he thinks "it may be called in some sense a commentary" on the Corinthian epistles; but elsewhere (p. xiii) he says it is "a modest attempt to bring before laymen in their homes subjects which had been better treated in sermons, but which, since they will neither listen to sermons nor read them, must be treated otherwise or not at all." It is probably true that people today, more than ever before, know what they want—or, at least, what they do not want—and feel freer to follow their own judgment in taking the one and declining the other. This is an evidence of progress; it marks enlightenment and discrimination. One should welcome it and feel good-natured about it. The people may be excused for expressing a distaste for much of the pulpit work to which they are subjected. But Mr. Henson regards it as an affront to himself individually and to the clerical class collectively. He will follow them up and insist upon their hearing him, if not in sermonic, then in book form. His acuteness in the discovery of symptoms is greater than in the interpretation of them. He characterizes the present religious conditions well, but he thinks they indicate malignant disease, while, in fact, they probably indicate rapid normal growth; not that the present conditions are wholly desirable, but that they form a necessary transition to a much better stage of thought and life.

The book is by no means dull or unprofitable reading. The scholarship displayed in the interpretation of the Corinthian epistles is excellent, and the application of Pauline teaching to present-day circumstances is often good. Perhaps he urges a too literal following of first-century ideas and methods, but at any rate he is right when he insists that we should learn Christianity anew from Jesus and the apostles. And his efforts to make primitive Christianity interesting, to get people to read their Bibles, is a useful endeavor. But his elaborate defense of certain features of current English episcopacy might or might not commend itself to the reader. We suggest to the persons who would not listen to Mr. Henson's sermons that they might get

some benefit from reading his book— not to please him, but for their own good.

C. W. V.

**The Four Gospels.** A New Translation from the Greek Text direct; with Reference to the Vulgate and the Ancient Syriac Version. By VERY REV. FRANCIS ALOSYSIUS SPENCER, O.P. Preface by His Eminence James, Cardinal Gibbons. New York: William H. Young & Co., 1898. xii + 280 pp. \$1.50.

In the making of this translation use has been made of the readings which represent the consensus of well-known editors, such as Tischendorf, Westcott and Hort, Lachmann, and the revisors. At the same time attention is called to the variation between the Vulgate and the Greek. The text is broken into sections, each with an appropriate title. Some of these are not altogether happy, as, for example, John 8: 21-29 stands under the heading, "Under Threat of Eternal Condemnation for Unbelief He Declares His Divinity." The text is further broken into the readings for the Sundays and principal feasts of the Roman church. Independence of translation is to be noticed in 8: 25, which he translates: "They said unto him therefore, 'Who are you?' Jesus said unto them, 'That which also I declare to you — The Beginning.'" In general the English is modern and vivid, though hardly to be compared in this respect with the extremely interesting "Twentieth Century New Testament," a portion of which has just been issued by the *Review of Reviews* in London. The volume has a reproduction of a number of portraits of Christ and the evangelists, which do not add especially to its value. It should also be noticed that the volume by its references constitutes a partial harmony of the gospels.

S. M.

**A Manual of Patrology;** being a Concise Account of the Chief Persons, Sects, Orders, etc., in Christian History from the First Century to the Period of the Reformation. With select Bibliographical References. By WALLACE NELSON STEARNS, A.M., B.D. With an Introduction by J. H. Thayer, D.D., Litt.D., Professor in the Divinity School of Harvard University. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899. xviii + 176 pp. \$1.50, *net*.

There has been need of a book of precisely this character, and every student of historical theology and of church history will welcome it as